

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

66651

DRAFTED BY:EA/RO:TBLEHA/JLEONARD

APPROVED BY:P:AMBASSADOR PORTER

PM/INSP:MR BROWN

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EA/P:MR ROSEN

DOD/ISA:MR DOOLIN

EA:MR HUMMEL

S/S:MR GAMMON

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O P 312225Z AUG 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

COMUSTDC PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 174564

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TW, TH, JA, CB, LA, US

SUBJ: REDEPOLYMENT OF 374TH TAW FROM TAIWAN

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REF: A. STATE 169575, B. TAIPEI 4801, C. TAIPEI 5185

1. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO THE TWO REQUESTS MADE BY PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUA (REF C) -- THAT ONE SQUADRON OF C-130S BE RETAINED ON TAIWAN AND THAT NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BE MADE OF THE C-130 WITHDRAWALS.

2. ALTHOUGH WE CAN EMPHASIZE WITH THE PREMIER'S REQUEST FOR RETENTION OF A C-130 SQUADRON, OUR PLANS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE ENTIRE AIRLIFT WING FROM TAIWAN ARE FIRM FOR THE REASONS STATED IN PARA 1, REF A. SIMPLE REITERATION OF THIS POINT, WE HOPE, WILL BE ADEQUATE TO CONVINCE THE PREMIER OF THIS FACT.

3. AS FOR THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT, ON BALANCE, AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS DESIRABLE. WHILE, FROM THE PREMIER'S VIEWPOINT, THERE ARE POSSIBLE SHORT-TERM BENEFITS TO BE GAINED FROM MAKING NO ANNOUNCEMENT, WE BELIEVE (AS SUGGESTED BY THE EMBASSY) THAT NEWS OF THE WITHDRAWALS IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO LEAK WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. (DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAS ALREADY COMMENTED OBLIQUELY ON THE WITHDRAWALS.) IF ASKED BY CONGRESS OR THE PRESS, WE WOULD BE COMPELLED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE WITHDRAWALS HAD TAKEN PLACE. THIS ADMISSION AND THE FOLLOW-ON QUESTIONS FOR WHICH WE ARE NOW PREPARED WOULD COME AT A TIME AND PLACE -- AND IN A CONTEXT -- NOT OF OUR CHOOSING; THIS TIMING COULD PROVE EMBARRASSING FOR BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS.

4. AN ANNOUNCEMENT NOW HAS THE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF COMING WITHIN A CONTEXT OF SUBSTANTIAL REDEPLOYMENTS FROM THAILAND. A LATER ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT WELL APPEAR TO INVOLVE WITHDRAWALS ONLY FROM TAIWAN AND, FOR THE REASON, ATTRACT GREATER ATTENTION AND IMPLY GREATER SIGNIFICANCE. MOREOVER, IF WE ARE FORCED LATER TO ADMIT WHAT WE MIGHT NOW MORE OR LESS ROUTINELY ANNOUNCE, WE ADD TO CREDIBILITY PROBLEMS HERE AT HOME. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION FOR US AND COULD ALSO AFFECT THE ROC.

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5. WE HAVE TRIED HARD, IN OUR ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT, TO ACCOMMODATE THE INTERESTS OF THE ROC AND SEVERAL SEA NATIONS AS WELL AS OUR OWN. IN THIS SPIRIT, WE HOPE THAT THE PREMIER WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT OUR CAREFULLY WORDED ANNOUNCEMENT SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE UNDER WHAT WE THINK ARE THE BEST POSSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES. ANY OTHER ALTERNATIVE, WE BELIEVE, WOULD BE LESS ADVANTAGEOUS TO BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS. THUS WE INTEND TO PROCEED WITH OUT

PREPARED TEXT. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUILDUP, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE174564
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/RO:TBLEHA/JLEONARD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P750011-0157
From: STATE EA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973081/aaaaaaf1.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 STATE 169575, 73 TAIPEI 4801, 73 TAIPEI 5185
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12-Dec-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REDEPLOYMENT OF 374TH TAW FROM TAIWAN
TAGS: MILI, TW, XC, US
To: TAIPEI BANGKOK MANILA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005